WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Rescheduling of flights on account of foggy conditions

*21. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether during December, 2006 and January, 2007, dense fog enveloped the Indira Gandhi International Airport and night visibility dropped to zero, due to which flights got disrupted and passengers were stranded for hours as airlines operators failed to inform the passengers on time about the delays and rescheduling;

(b) whether on personal inspection, DGCA found that many trained pilots are out of India on international sectors and many CAT III-B trained pilots are not even in India in this foggy season; and

(c) the steps taken or are likely to be taken in future to avoid such situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During December 2006 and January 2007, on certain occasions night visibility/Runway Visual Range (RVR) dropped to below 50 meters which is below CAT-IIIB capability due to which certain flights got disrupted. Some of the airlines have informed that they had made every effort to inform the passengers about cancellation, delay, rescheduling of the flights, however fog being unpredicatable it is not possible to ascertain in advance.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has advised airlines that operations to/from Delhi should not be affected during fog conditions due to non-availability of trained CAT-II/III pilots. The airlines have also been advised to assess the requirement of CAT-II/III pilots, plan for their deployment in advance and, if necessary, revise their winter schedule.

The airlines have also been directed not to roster their CAT-III trained pilots on international routes during fog conditions.

The Airlines are encouraged to upgrade their aeroplanes and train their pilots for operations in low visibility conditions. Their flight schedules are

approved on the basis of number of pilots trained by the operators for low visibility operations and the suitability of the planes for such operations. Those operators who do not provide data about their capability to fly under low visibility are not allowed to schedule their flights during fog hours.

Illegal share transfer from Demat accounts

*22. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Demat account holders in various banks are facing loss of shares from their Demat accounts through forged signatures;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to control this practice and to help the victims;

(c) if not, whether Government intend to bring measures to control the spread of illegal share transfer from Demat account holders, along with details thereof; and

(d) the details of aggrieved persons till now and the measures taken/ proposed to protect them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that since January 2005 till date, NSDL has received four complaints from investors and CDSL has not received any complaint in this regard.

(b) to (d) There are mechanisms in place to reduce incidence of loss to investors and deal with them. In three out of the four cases referred to above, the grievances of the investors have been fully redressed. In the fourth case, the legal process is underway. The Depositories Act, 1996 mandates the Depository to indemnify the investor for any loss caused to him due to the negligence of the depository or the depository participant. SEBI Regulations require every depository to take adequate measures including insurance to protect the interests of the investors against risks likely to be incurred on account of its activities as a depository. SEBI has been continously reviewing its policies and programmes to mitigate the risks of the investors in the depository system. It has issued a circular on February 13, 2007 to the Depositories on the safeguards and measures to be taken on transfer of securities in dematerilised mode.